

**Town of Webster
Office of Select Board
945 Battle Street
Webster, NH 03303
Final Minutes – May 23, 2016
Approved June 6, 2016**

Staff Present: Bruce Johnson, Michael Borek (by phone), Nanci Schofield, Wendy Pinkham, Phil Mitchell, Therese Larson, Emmett Bean and Leslie Palmer

Public Present: Marty Bender, Tara Gunnigle, Glen Blanchette, Greg Roberts and Russ Wright

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting at 6:31 PM.

The Board signed the following for Administrative Assistant Leslie Palmer:

- Selectman Borek moved to accept the 05/09/2016 Select Board minutes as written. Selectwoman Schofield seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.
- Selectman Borek moved to accept the 05/09/2016 Select Board Non-Public minutes as written. Selectwoman Schofield seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.
- Chairman Johnson move to request that the Trustees of Trusts issue a check in the amount of \$379.00 payable to Bergeron Protective Clothing from the FD Bunker Gear Capital Reserve Fund, Account #780187852, to pay invoice #2018506 for the purchase of Globe Supreme Boots. Selectman Borek seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.
- Chairman Johnson move to request that the Trustees of Trusts issue a check in the amount of \$2,224.28 payable to Taser International from the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, Account #780193405, to pay invoice #1437147 for the purchase of two Tasers and related accessories. Selectman Borek seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.
- The Select Board approved a request for use of a recreational camper.
- A Public Hearing to consider a Barn Preservation Easement renewal application will be held on Monday, June 6th at 7:00 PM.
- Administrative Assistant Palmer and Emergency Management Director Gary French will be meeting with Stephanie Alexander from the Central NH Regional Planning Commission to discuss the possibility of Commission's assistance in updating the Town's Local Emergency Operations Plan.

The Board signed the following for Land Use Coordinator Therese Larson:

- Land use Coordinator Larson presented seven abatement applications for consideration and Select Board signature. The Board concurred with the Assessor's recommendation in each case; four applications were denied and three were approved.

The Board signed the following for Financial Administrator Wendy Pinkham:

- The Select Board signed the payroll and accounts payable manifests, the March bank reconciliation, PO #13 for the purchase of ammunition for \$1,151.00 and PO #14 for the purchase of a wet battery for fire engine 3 for \$397.96.
- Financial Administrator Pinkham provided the Select Board with information regarding new white collar overtime regulations which go into effect in December, 2016. She also reported on increased New Hampshire Retirement rates which will take effect on July 1, 2016. Both issues will be addressed further during budget talks.
- Financial Administrator Pinkham will be attending a Government Finance Officials Association workshop on June 23rd.
- Chairman Johnson will amend and forward a financial document requested by Plozdik and Sanderson related to the Town's audit.
- Updated budgets were presented for Select Board review.

Interim Police Chief Phil Mitchell presented or advised the Board of the following:

- 63 calls for service in the last two weeks.
- Interim Chief Mitchell presented a vacation requests for himself and the Secretary for Board approval.
- Interim Chief Mitchell and Officer Shapiro went to the range last week with the Boscawen Police Department for their yearly qualifying on pistol, shotgun and patrol rifle.
- The annual DARE Breakfast will take place on May 29th at 9:00 AM at the Cozy Pond Campground.
- Police were called out twice in the last two weeks.

Fire Chief Emmett Bean presented or advised the Board of the following:

- 5 calls for service in the last two weeks.
- Work to the fire pond on old Rt. 127 that had been out of service is almost complete.
- The Fire Department will participate in Field Day at Webster Elementary School on June 10th.

Road Agent Emmett Bean presented or advised the Board of the following:

- Ditching took place on Winnepocket Rd. and grading continues.

Old Business:

- Administrative Assistant Palmer provided the Board with updates on various road projects; Erin Darrow of Right Angle Engineering will meet with the Board on June 20th to discuss work to date.
- The Road Agent Contract was not signed as anticipated; the Road Agent agreed to sign the contract at the June 6th meeting.

Selectwoman Schofield reported that the Planning Board will be writing a letter of support to the Historical Society to accompany its LCHIP grant application to restore the Webster Meeting House. Tara Gunnigle provided further background on the Meeting House which celebrates its 225th anniversary this year as well as the efforts of the Society for the Preservation of the Old Webster Meeting House to raise money for the restoration and solicit new members interested in helping out. The “Celebration and Restoration” of the Meeting House will be the theme of this year’s Old Home Day. The August 15th Select Board meeting will be held at the Meeting House to help commemorate the anniversary as well. The Webster Meeting House is the oldest meeting house in the state which is still used for its original purpose. The Society will be placing an advertisement in the grapevine asking for antiques to be displayed on loan or accepted as a gift, along with old photos to be copied and displayed.

Energy Committee Update:

Marty Bender provided the Select Board with an update on the Energy Committee’s research in the possibility of installing solar panels to provide electricity to the Town buildings and salt shed. Granite State Solar has provided a proposal for installing panels past the soccer field between the river and Rt. 127, to be reviewed at the next Select Board meeting. Following further discussion on the proposal and financing options, Chairman Johnson asked for public comment.

- Fire Chief Emmett Bean brought forward fire concerns related to the panels being installed near the Elementary School, and recommended the development of an emergency plan. He also pointed to the toxicity of the panels in the event of a fire.
- Greg Roberts commented that he has looked into solar extensively and noted that there are a lot of upfront costs in the first year of operation.
- Russ Wright suggested that the Webster check with other Towns that have successfully installed solar panels to see how they went about the process.

Public Comment:

- Greg Roberts asked for more information regarding barn preservation easements. Administrative Assistant Palmer explained that the discretionary preservation easement is meant to encourage preservation of barns and that the owner needs to demonstrate that the barn has a public benefit or is historically significant to be considered for an easement by the Select Board. This process requires a Public Hearing.
- Glen Blanchette asked about the status of the oldest Police Cruiser; interim Chief Mitchell responded that it is in good shape and that the department has been using it periodically to keep it in good running condition. Mr. Blanchette also asked about Clothespin Bridge. Chairman Johnson responded that pre-engineering work continues and that a proposal for a new bridge will be brought before residents at Town meeting.

At 7:55 PM, Chairman Johnson requested to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 IIa, to discuss “the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee...” Selectwoman Schofield seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, Chairman Johnson – yes, Selectman Borek – yes, Selectwoman Schofield – yes.

A motion was made by Selectman Borek to come out of Non-Public Session at 8:55 PM and Selectwoman Schofield seconded. All in favor the motion was approved.

A motion was made by Selectwoman Schofield to seal the Non-Public minutes. Selectman Borek seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, Chairman Johnson – yes, Selectman Borek – yes, Selectwoman Schofield – yes.

At 8:56 PM, Selectman Borek made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Selectwoman Schofield and approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Leslie M. Palmer